GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2198
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2002
IMPROVEMENT IN POST HARVEST MANAGEMENT
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that in absence of post harvesting preservation facilities and non-availability of cold storages near fields, the fruits and vegetables worth crores of rupees perish every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to sanction more projects of cold storage and also introduce efficient and effective transportation system for perishable commodities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of proposals received from various States in this regard;

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(g) whether any recent study has revealed that India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world;

(h) if so, whether the study has pointed out that the country must improve post- harvest management;

(i) if so, the suggestions made in this regard; and

(j) the steps proposed to be taken to implement the said suggestions?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): Horticulture produce including fruits and vegetables are perishable in nature and as per the Report of the Working Group on Horticulture Development for the Xth plan set up by the Planning Commission, the wastage of these crops ranges from8-37% at various stages of handling after harvesting due to inadequate post harvest infrastructure including transport and storages.

(c) to (j): National Horticulture Board under the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various programmes which address post harvest losses of horticulture crops like fruits, vegetables etc. through creation of post harvest infrastructure for increasing the shelf life of these crops. The programmes are
(i) Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction / Expansion / Modernization of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce and
(ii) Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management.

So far National Horticulture Board has sanctioned 549 projects on cold storagesand storages for horticulture produce with a total capacity of 2520378.31 M.Ts in 21 States / Union Territories. The Board has released a sum of Rs.185.17 crores assubsidy for these projects. As per statistics of the world production, India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables.